

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Arctic)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Warships in the Barents and White Seas 2. Shore Leave at Mezen	DATE DISTR.	16 November 1955 25X1
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. At about 0400 hours GMT on 4 August 1955, a naval vessel was 15 miles north of Kildin Island on a course for the Kola Inlet. It was 300 to 400 feet long, with an overhanging bow, a bridge with a large structure on it, a mast, a break in the deck, a funnel, another mast, and another funnel (see sketch No. 1). In the forenoon on 5 August, a submarine was on a southeasterly course west of Svyatoy Nos. and was about 350 feet long, with a flat bow, and a comparatively high conning tower with a multi-barrelled gun at the forward edge. 25X1

2. ship was near Veshnyak Island, north of the Gorlo. There was a fairly light fog. The fog lifted a little and a naval vessel then passed right by ship on a northerly course. It was about 400 feet long, with a raked, streamlined funnel, and a break in the deck between the bridge and the funnel. The vessel towed two gunnery targets. At 0400 hours GMT on 18 August, two westward bound formations of minesweepers were between Cape Teriberskiy and Svyatoy Nos. Both formations sailed in column and each consisted of seven or eight vessels. The first and last vessels in each column were somewhat larger than the other five or six. The larger vessels were 100 to 120 feet long, with a raised forecastle, a gun forward of the bridge, a mast and funnel abaft the bridge, and some equipment on the afterdeck. The smaller vessels were 20 to 30 feet shorter and were flushdeckers, with an antiaircraft gun on the foredeck, and a large drum on the afterdeck. At 0300 hours GMT on 19 August, ten identical MTB's were on a southerly course at a speed of at least 30 knots due south of Nikodimskiy Point (N 66-07, E 39-08). They looked completely new. They were short and wide, barely over 40 feet long, with a rounded bow, a low open bridge amidships, a signal mast at the after edge of the bridge, a low oval funnel abaft the bridge, and a gun abaft the funnel. 25X1

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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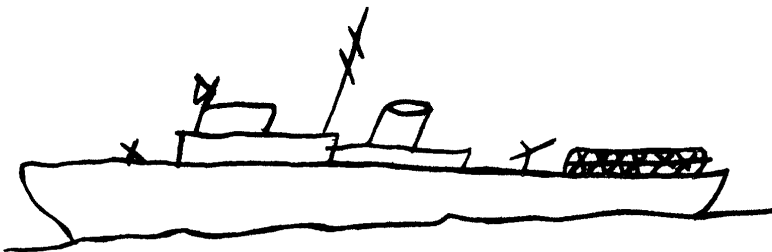
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3. At 1700 hours GMT on 22 August, a formation of seven vessels was on a northerly course off the mouth of Kola Inlet. The formation consisted of three destroyers, two minesweepers, one merchant vessel, and one depot ship. One destroyer sailed a couple of nautical miles ahead of the merchant vessel. The other two destroyers flanked the merchant vessel. The depot ship sailed astern of the merchant vessel, and astern to starboard, the minesweepers sailed in column. The destroyers looked like small destroyer escorts of the usual English type with one mast and one funnel. The minesweepers were small vessels, with clipper bows, flush decks, a gun forward of the bridge, a relatively long bridge which ended in a point with a searchlight or radar on top, a signal mast at the after edge of the bridge, a machinery housing with a low funnel abaft the bridge, a gun abaft the housing, and a low, extended grillwork structure at the stern. (See sketch No. 2.) The depot ship had a peculiar superstructure. It extended almost the entire length of the ship and had two or three stepped decks.
4. In Mezen there was no muster of the crew.
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Sketch No. 1:Vessel off Kildin IslandSketch No. 2:Minesweepers in Formation off Kola Inlet

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